

Searching for Resources and Getting Results

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Resources:

1. Online Public Access Catalog- The LION (Library Online) Catalog for Connecticut libraries showed books available in both my public library as well as materials available in surrounding local libraries.
2. The EBSCO Host of databases present a collection of articles is useful for quickly browsing articles. It also gives the researcher the ability to refine the search into a narrower search until the appropriate resources are found.
3. Pathfinders on the World Book Discover service through the Westbrook Public Library.
4. The search engines I used were Google and Metacrawler. The Google search engine is a system I'm familiar with and Metacrawler is a good multi-search engine.

Topic One:

Question: What came from the scientific advances of the Renaissance?

Narrower Question: What scientific influences of Leonardo Da Vinci had a lasting effect on today's engineering technology?

Search Results:

When reading through the results of the LION catalog, I found that a lot of the resources were more general, but the materials found could lead to more leads or specific technologies that will assist in the research topic. The databases at EBSCO Host led to a collection of relevant resources about Da Vinci's work and influence. Most of the results from searching pathfinders weren't specific enough and didn't provide a clear set of articles to examine. Using the Google and Metacrawler

search engines, enough sites were found reflecting the contributions Da Vinci made to modern technology for the hypothetical student to continue research. Using these resources, the student in question could find enough resources to get their question answered. I would suggest using the Google results as well as the results combined with the information found in the LION resources.

Topic Two:

Question: What influenced the works of writers in the early 1900s?

Narrower Question: What events or social trends influenced Hemingway's fictional work?

Searching Results:

Using the LION catalog, I was able to find several resources about the Hemingway's life available for request or checkout. There were less resources specifically relating to his influences specifically, but the subjects covered would. The Buley library databases offer a collection of articles that could also be useful, but were a little difficult to get to exactly what the user would need without the guidance of the reference librarian. In the end, however, these academic articles proved to be helpful in the search for information. In this case, I'd suggest using a combination of databases and the LION resources (to help guide the researcher through the database articles).

Topic Three:

Question: Why did the government shutdown?

Narrower Question: What conditions occurred that led to the eventual US government shutdown of 2013?

Searching Results:

The LION catalog had little to offer on the recent government shutdown. The Lion catalog offered little for recent explorations in American government, which is understandable since the shut down occurred fairly recently. Expectedly, the more up to date databases and search engines yielded better results. The databases accessible through the Buley website provided a collection of periodical articles that offer various views on the shutdown. Google and Metacrawler revealed a set of results that gave enough information, but a lot of it was biased toward one side, or uninformed blogs that may or may not be reliable. In this case, I would direct the patron toward the Buley articles or the academic periodicals of some other library database.